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## Open Access Ebooks

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## Open Access Ebooks



I discovered a wealth of resources for open access books, many of them international in coverage with a variety of materials in multiple disciplines and languages.

**L**ibraries, faculty, and researchers around the world celebrated Open Access Week from Oct. 22 to 28, 2012. SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition ([www.arl.org/sparc](http://www.arl.org/sparc)), organizes the program, now in its sixth year. The celebration provides an international forum for sharing the benefits of open access and inspiring wider participation in the open access movement.

I decided to participate in Open Access Week 2012 by highlighting various open access ebook platforms on my blog, No Shelf Required (<http://libraries.wright.edu/noshelfrequired>). In my research, I discovered a wealth of resources for open access books, many of them international in coverage with a variety of materials in multiple disciplines and languages. As I expected, once I began blogging about open access ebook collections, readers and followers sent me comments and suggestions for additional sources of open access ebooks. The focus of this column is to introduce a variety of open access ebook collections and initiatives. I haven't included unglue.it, as I featured that in my May/June 2012 column.

The collections and initiatives are listed with name, URL, and a brief summary of the content and purpose of the site. If you have suggestions for additional open access ebook collections, send them my way.

### OAPEN—OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING IN EUROPEAN NETWORKS

OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Networks) describes itself as "a collaborative initiative to develop and implement a sustainable Open Access publication model for academic books in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The OAPEN Library aims to improve the visibility and usability of high quality academic research by aggregating peer reviewed Open Access publications from across Europe" ([www.oapen.org/home](http://www.oapen.org/home)).

The publishing platform offers the full text of titles in English, German, French, Italian, Latin, and a few other languages. Titles are submitted by a variety of publishers, including Taylor & Francis Group, Palgrave Macmillan, Brill, Berg, and a long list of university presses, such as Hong Kong, Manchester, Firenze, Amsterdam, Aarhus, and Göttingen. The advanced search screen supports Boolean operators and proximity search, along with the ability to filter by title, author, series title, subject, ISBN, and date.

All books in the OAPEN Library can be found through WorldCat (OCLC platform, WorldCat.org, and WorldCat Local). Libraries can also add the titles to their catalogs for additional discovery. OAPEN enables libraries and aggregators to use the metadata of all available titles in the OAPEN Library. Metadata is (or will be soon) available in ONIX, MARCXML, CSV, and XML. All metadata feeds are available under a CC0 1.0 license, but OAPEN does request that users inform it upon use of the metadata.

According to its newsletter, OAPEN had more than 400,000 downloads from August 2011 through July 2012.

#### DOAB—THE DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS BOOKS

The DOAB is a service of the OAPEN Foundation. As of November 2012, it provided the metadata for 1,226 peer-reviewed, academic, open access ebooks from 33 publishers. What makes the DOAB different from OAPEN is that it contains only the metadata of open access ebooks; the full text must be downloaded by visiting the publisher sites (links are provided in the directory). OAPEN, on the other hand, provides the metadata and full text of the titles within the publishing platform.

The primary goal of the DOAB is to increase discoverability of open access books. According to its website, it invites academic publishers to provide metadata, aggregators to integrate records into commercial services, and libraries to integrate the directory into online catalogs. The directory is open to all publishers of academic, peer-reviewed books in open access. The DOAB also provides harvestable metadata in order to maximize dissemination, visibility, and impact.

Libraries are welcome to add the metadata (which includes licensing for each title) to their own catalogs to increase discovery. It can be downloaded through either OAI Harvesting or by downloading a CSV file (<http://doabooks.org/doab?func=about&uiLanguage=en#metadata>).

A unique feature for the DOAB is formatted HTML for embedding DOAB search boxes onto one's website, another great feature for discovery of content.

#### CLACSO—CONSEJO LATINOAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES

CLACSO is the acronym for the Latin American Council of Social Sciences ([www.clacso.org.ar/inicio/inicio.php?idioma=ing](http://www.clacso.org.ar/inicio/inicio.php?idioma=ing)). Created in 1967, this nongovernmental organization plays a significant role in the development of social research by disseminating social science materials in Latin America and the Caribbean. By 1998, it expanded its support of the social sciences by creating a virtual library network of more than 300 production centers in 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries. It now provides nearly 700 open access books through its digital repository.

The repository is built using an open source software platform, Greenstone, which offers access to more than 30,000 digital objects including full-text articles, papers, and books, plus multimedia productions (audio, pictures,



A unique feature for the DOAB is formatted HTML for embedding DOAB search boxes onto one's website, another great feature for discovery of content.

and video) published by the CLACSO network. Language skills are a must, as the search features and interface are in Spanish, as well as much of the content. The main website can be viewed in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

#### SCIELO—SCIENTIFIC ELECTRONIC LIBRARY ONLINE

I first learned about SciELO Books (<http://books.scielo.org>) when I traveled to Brazil last fall for the Seminario Brasileiro de Bibliotecas Academicas (SNBU) Conference. This open ebook collection is less than a year old, launched in March 2012. It is based on the successful SciELO open access journal collection ([www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en](http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en)). The website is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. There are approximately 300 books available from a variety of university presses in Brazil.

A news article in PublishNews Brazil written last June said the following about the collection: "SciELO Books is a pilot



SciELO publishes scientific books, most in Portuguese, as open access.



Ubiquity Press is led by  
researchers operating with a low-  
cost, rapid publishing model and  
will publish within 1 month of  
final copy receipt.

project for the presses of Unesp (in São Paulo), UFBA (in Bahia) and Fiocruz (in Rio de Janeiro). There are currently 250 titles online, with the aim to reach 500 by the end of the year. And SciELO is looking to expand its partners" (<http://publishnewsbrazil.com/2012/06/brazilian-university-presses-flirt-with-free-open-access-books>).

The SciELO Books Portal contains academic titles selected by a scientific committee following a peer-review process. Titles are either publisher collections or thematic collections (scientific titles selected by publishers, institutions, or specialist groups). They include research results, essays, and scientific studies. The digital versions of the books are formatted in PDF and EPUB in order to be read on the widest possible variety of ebook readers, tablets, smartphones, and browsers. In addition to the SciELO Books Portal, the books can be found via search engines. The organization plans to make the content available through other international distribution channels in the near future.

## UBIQUITY PRESS

Ubiquity Press Ltd. ([www.ubiquitypress.com](http://www.ubiquitypress.com)), founded by University College London, is a 100% open access journal publisher. It plans to launch its first monographs in early 2013. According to its website, "[W]e believe that monograph authors should also receive the maximum dissemination of their work" ([www.ubiquitypress.com/about](http://www.ubiquitypress.com/about)).

Ubiquity Press is led by researchers operating with a low-cost, rapid publishing model and will publish within 1 month of final copy receipt. Many titles are in the humanities, where a majority of researchers write in book form. Ubiquity Press publishes individual and series books, all peer reviewed. Titles will be free online. Plans are to have PDF, HTML, EPUB, and Kindle formats available for download as well, either as an entire book or individual chapters. Content will be optimized for mobile devices. Finally, all

content will be available through a print-on-demand (POD) option, either at the book or chapter level or for individually selected compilations. There will be a fee for the POD service, and a percent of the income will be given to the authors. Authors also benefit with a quick publication process, broad exposure via openness of content, and available DOIs for books, chapters, and data.

## SPRINGEROPEN

SpringerOpen ([www.springeropen.com](http://www.springeropen.com)) launched in 2010 as an open access journal program. It has a portfolio of more than 100 open access journals in the STM areas. The program expanded to include books in August 2012, due to the growing demand for open access content. The monographs, either complete monographs, edited volumes, proceedings, or SpringerBriefs, receive the same peer review and editorial processes as fee-based monographs. Titles are available freely online, and print editions are available for a fee.

Currently, seven titles are available in the collection, which will grow in years to come. Like the journals, books will be in the STM areas. They are accessible through SpringerLink and are also listed in the Directory of open access Books. Libraries who subscribe to Springer ebook collections automatically have access to the open access book titles; SpringerOpen offers all journals and books through an Open Access Membership Program. This program, with more than 400-plus participating institutions, covers some or all of researchers' publication costs when they submit to SpringerOpen. To find out more about the open books program or to see if your institution is a member of the OAMP, visit <http://springeropen.com/books>.

## KNOWLEDGE UNLATCHED

Knowledge Unlatched is not yet an ebook collection, but an initiative to bring open access ebooks to fruition though

*Ubiquity Press' homepage explains its mission for open access.*



the collaborative efforts of authors, publishers, and libraries ([www.knowledgeunlatched.org](http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org)). It is an idea from Frances Pinter, executive director of Knowledge Unlatched. I first heard about this initiative 2 years ago at the O'Reilly Tools of Change for Publishing conference where Pinter was speaking. The initiative has grown since then, taking on a new name, a 3-year pilot project to begin in 2013, and hosting from Big Innovation Centre in London during its incubation stage.

Pinter is concerned that the market for scholarly monographs is inefficient and not working for any of the parties involved. She is particularly concerned with monographs in the humanities and social sciences.

She said in an email to me, "In the past the publication of scholarly books was funded by selling individual copies one by one as the way in which the publisher recovered the costs associated with selecting, peer reviewing, editing, typesetting, designing, marketing and selling. When thinking about a more efficient approach to paying for the publication of monographs it is useful to return to the question of who currently funds this activity. Most of the money that now pays for monographs comes from library budgets. The role of libraries as the only purchasers of monographs is closely linked to the difficulties that this part of the publishing industry has faced over the last few years. However, it may also be a key advantage when it comes to developing a sustainable strategy for facilitating the large-scale publication of scholarly books on open access licenses."

To that end, the goal of Knowledge Unlatched is to create a global library consortium that will pay for the fixed costs of monographs to publishers in exchange for the publisher agreeing to issue the text on an open content license (such as a creative commons license). By helping libraries to form an international consortium that pays a



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single upfront fee to cover the cost of publishing a book on an open access license, and allowing publishers to retain the rights to sell physical copies or value-added ebook versions of titles, all of the stakeholders in the monograph market could greatly benefit.

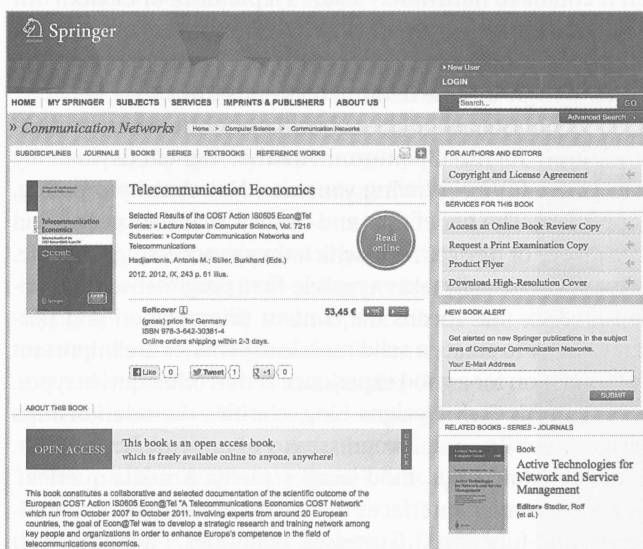
Pinter outlined the process as follows:

- A Title Fee is paid to publishers to cover the fixed costs of publishing the books. For each library the contribution to the Title Fee is not more than a third of the price of the book (often less). The aggregated amount, however, pays for the fixed costs incurred by the publisher.
- In return, publishers make books available on an open access basis upon publication. This may be in HTML or any other format selected by the publisher.
- Publishers will sell, where requested by member libraries, print copies or alternative ebook versions at a discounted price. The discount will ensure that members benefit from having contributed to the origination costs and that they pay cumulatively less than nonmembers.
- Publishers sell to the rest of the market on their own terms.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Open Access Week 2012 was an exciting time for open access ebooks. The momentum is likely to build as more publishers choose open access and more initiatives appear. Even companies such as ProQuest's ebrary is making some titles open access ([www.ebrary.com/corp/oa.jsp](http://www.ebrary.com/corp/oa.jsp)). I look forward to seeing what Open Access Week 2013 will bring in terms of ebooks.

*Sue Polanka is head of reference and instruction, Wright State University Libraries, and blogs at No Shelf Required. Comments? Email the editor-in-chief ([marydee@xmission.com](mailto:marydee@xmission.com)).*



Springer clearly labels books that are open access on its website.